

## **Assembly Bill No. 243**

### **CHAPTER 426**

An act to amend Section 1810.7 of the Insurance Code, and to add and repeal Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 1299) to Chapter 1 of Title 10 of Part 2 of the Penal Code, relating to bail enforcement.

[Approved by Governor September 16, 1999. Filed  
with Secretary of State September 16, 1999.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

**AB 243, Wildman. Bail fugitive recovery persons.**

Existing law regulating the issuance of bail bonds requires any person advertising or engaging in the business of executing, delivering, or furnishing bail bonds to hold a bail agent's license, a bail permittee's license, or a bail solicitor's license, as specified, issued by the Insurance Commissioner.

This bill would provide for the regulation of bail fugitive recovery persons, defined as a person given written authorization by a bail or depositor of bail and contracted to investigate, surveil, locate, and arrest a bail fugitive and any person employed to assist the bail or depositor of bail to investigate, surveil, locate, and arrest a bail fugitive. This bill would require that bail fugitive recovery persons be at least 18 years of age and complete 2 power of arrest courses, as specified. This bill would require that a person authorized to apprehend a bail fugitive notify local law enforcement of their intent to apprehend a bail fugitive no more than 6 hours prior to attempting to apprehend a bail fugitive, except as specified. This bill would prohibit a person authorized to apprehend a bail fugitive from forcibly entering a premises for that purpose, except pursuant to certain existing provisions of law governing arrest by a private person. The bill would require any person authorized to apprehend a bail fugitive to carry a certification of completion of required courses and training programs.

Because this bill states that any person who is not in compliance with, or who violates, these provisions is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable, as specified, this bill would create a new crime, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program.

The bill would make related changes. It would also declare that it shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2005, unless a later enacted statute deletes or extends that date.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 1810.7 of the Insurance Code is amended to read:

1810.7. (a) In order to be eligible to take the examination required to be licensed under this chapter, the applicant shall have completed not less than 12 hours of classroom education in subjects pertinent to the duties and responsibilities of a bail licensee, including, but not limited to, all laws and regulations related thereto, rights of the accused, ethics, and apprehension of bail fugitives. Additionally, a licensee shall complete annually not less than six hours of continuing classroom education in these subjects prior to renewal of his or her license. This continuing education requirement shall not include a written examination.

(b) The commissioner shall biennially approve or disapprove one or more statewide professional organizations or other providers familiar with bail law to provide education for licensure as required by this section. The commissioner may, at any time, disapprove any provider who is not qualified or whose course outlines are not approved, who is not of good business reputation, or who is lacking in integrity, honesty, or competency. The commissioner shall biennially approve or disapprove the course outlines and schedule of classes to be provided.

(c) The statewide professional organization or other providers responsible for providing education for licensure under this chapter shall consult with the California State Sheriffs' Association, the California District Attorneys Association, the California Advisory Board of Surety Agents, and the California Bail Agents Association, prior to submission of the course outlines for approval by the commissioner. The bail license fee shall be increased, the amount of which shall be determined by the commissioner, which shall be deposited in the Insurance Fund for the purposes of recovering the administrative costs for meeting the conditions and purposes of this section. Providers of education or continuing education shall offer courses to all applicants at the same course fees.

(d) Any person who falsely represents to the commissioner that compliance with this section has been met shall be subject, after notice and hearing, to the penalties and fines set out in Section 1814.

(e) A licensee shall not be required to comply with the continuing education requirements of this section if the licensee submits proof satisfactory to the commissioner that he or she has been a licensee in good standing for 30 continuous years in this state and is 70 years of age or older.

(f) The commissioner may make reasonable rules and regulations necessary, advisable, and convenient for the administration and enforcement of this chapter.

SEC. 2. Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 1299) is added to Chapter 1 of Title 10 of Part 2 of the Penal Code, to read:

Article 5.5. Bail Fugitive Recovery Persons Act

1299. This article shall be known as the Bail Fugitive Recovery Persons Act.

1299.01. For purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) “Bail fugitive” means a defendant in a pending criminal case who has been released from custody under a financially secured appearance, cash, or other bond and has had that bond declared forfeited, or a defendant in a pending criminal case who has violated a bond condition whereby apprehension and reincarceration are permitted.

(b) “Bail” means a person licensed by the Department of Insurance pursuant to Section 1800 of the Insurance Code.

(c) “Depositor of bail” means a person or entity who has deposited money or bonds to secure the release of a person charged with a crime or offense.

(d) “Bail fugitive recovery person” means a person who is provided written authorization pursuant to Sections 1300 and 1301 by the bail or depositor of bail, and is contracted to investigate, surveil, locate, and arrest a bail fugitive for surrender to the appropriate court, jail, or police department, and any person who is employed to assist a bail or depositor of bail to investigate, surveil, locate, and arrest a bail fugitive for surrender to the appropriate court, jail, or police department.

1299.02. (a) No person, other than a certified law enforcement officer, shall be authorized to apprehend, detain, or arrest a bail fugitive unless that person meets one of the following conditions:

(1) Is a bail as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 1299.01 or a depositor of bail as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 1299.01.

(2) Is a bail fugitive recovery person as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 1299.01.

(3) Holds a bail license issued by a state other than California or is authorized by another state to transact and post bail and is in compliance with the provisions of Section 847.5 with respect to the arrest of a bail fugitive.

(4) Is licensed as a private investigator as provided in Chapter 11.3 (commencing with Section 7512) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code.

(5) Holds a private investigator license issued by another state, is authorized by the bail or depositor of bail to apprehend a bail fugitive,

and is in compliance with the provisions of Section 847.5 with respect to the arrest of a bail fugitive.

(b) This article shall not prohibit an arrest pursuant to Sections 837, 838, and 839.

1299.04. (a) A bail fugitive recovery person, a bail agent, bail permittee, or bail solicitor who contracts his or her services to another bail agent or surety as a bail fugitive recovery person for the purposes specified in subdivision (d) of Section 1299.01, and any bail agent, bail permittee, or bail solicitor who obtains licensing after January 1, 2000, and who engages in the arrest of a defendant pursuant to Section 1301 shall comply with the following requirements:

(1) The person shall be at least 18 years of age.

(2) The person shall have completed a 40-hour power of arrest course certified by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training pursuant to Section 832. Completion of the course shall be for educational purposes only and not intended to confer the power of arrest of a peace officer or public officer, or agent of any federal, state, or local government, unless the person is so employed by a governmental agency.

(3) The person shall have completed a minimum of 12 hours of classroom education certified pursuant to Section 1810.7 of the Insurance Code.

(4) The person shall have completed a course of training in the exercise of the power to arrest offered pursuant to Section 7583.7 of the Business and Professions Code.

(5) The person shall not have been convicted of a felony.

(b) Upon completion of any course or training program required by this section, an individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive shall carry certificates of completion with him or her at all times in the course of performing his or her duties under this article.

1299.05. In performing a bail fugitive apprehension, an individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive shall comply with all laws applicable to that apprehension.

1299.06. Before apprehending a bail fugitive, an individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive shall have in his or her possession proper documentation of authority to apprehend issued by the bail or depositor of bail as prescribed in Sections 1300 and 1301. The authority to apprehend document shall include all of the following information: the name of the individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive and any fictitious name, if applicable; the address of the principal office of the individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive; and the name and principal business address of the bail agency, surety company, or other party contracting with the individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive.



1299.07. (a) An individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive shall not represent himself or herself in any manner as being a sworn law enforcement officer.

(b) An individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive shall not wear any uniform that represents himself or herself as belonging to any part or department of a federal, state, or local government. Any uniform shall not display the words United States, Bureau, Task Force, Federal, or other substantially similar words that a reasonable person may mistake for a government agency.

(c) An individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive shall not wear or otherwise use a badge that represents himself or herself as belonging to any part or department of the federal, state, or local government.

(d) An individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive shall not use a fictitious name that represents himself or herself as belonging to any federal, state, or local government.

1299.08. (a) Except under exigent circumstances, an individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive shall, prior to and no more than six hours before attempting to apprehend the bail fugitive, notify the local police department or sheriff's department of the intent to apprehend a bail fugitive in that jurisdiction by:

(1) Indicating the name of an individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive entering the jurisdiction.

(2) Stating the approximate time an individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive will be entering the jurisdiction and the approximate length of the stay.

(3) Stating the name and approximate location of the bail fugitive.

(b) If an exigent circumstance does arise and prior notification is not given as provided in subdivision (a), an individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive shall notify the local police department or sheriff's department immediately after the apprehension, and upon request of the local jurisdiction, shall submit a detailed explanation of those exigent circumstances within three working days after the apprehension is made.

(c) This section shall not preclude an individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive from making or attempting to make a lawful arrest of a bail fugitive on bond pursuant to Section 1300 or 1301. The fact that a bench warrant is not located or entered into a warrant depository or system shall not affect a lawful arrest of the bail fugitive.

(d) For the purposes of this section, notice may be provided to a local law enforcement agency by telephone prior to the arrest or, after the arrest has taken place, if exigent circumstances exist. In that case the name or operator number of the employee receiving the

notice information shall be obtained and retained by the bail, depositor of bail, or bail fugitive recovery person.

1299.09. (a) An individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive shall not forcibly enter a premises except as provided for in Section 844.

(b) Nothing in subdivision (a) shall be deemed to authorize an individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive to apprehend, detain, or arrest any person except as otherwise authorized pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 833) of Title 3 of Part 2, or any other provision of law.

1299.10. An individual authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive shall not carry a firearm or other weapon unless in compliance with the laws of the state.

1299.11. Any person who violates this act, or who conspires with another person to violate this act, or who hires an individual to apprehend a bail fugitive, knowing that the individual is not authorized by Section 1299.02 to apprehend a bail fugitive, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed one year, or by both that imprisonment and fine.

1299.12. This article shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2005, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2005, deletes or extends that date.

1299.13. Nothing in this article is intended to exempt from licensure persons otherwise required to be licensed as private investigators pursuant to Chapter 11.3 (commencing with Section 7512) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code.

SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act shall become operative on the same date that the act takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.

